

## ABSTRACT

5       The invention provides, in a general sense, a new labeling strategy employing  
      <sup>99m</sup>Tc chelated with ethylenedicysteine (EC). EC is conjugated with a variety of ligands  
      and chelated to <sup>99m</sup>Tc for use as an imaging agent for tissue-specific diseases. The drug  
      conjugates of the invention may also be used as a prognostic tool or as a tool to deliver  
      therapeutics to specific sites within a mammalian body. Kits for use in tissue-specific  
      disease imaging are also provided.

10